

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

3 FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Kirkbride (in the Chair); Councillors Miss Blissett, Chatterjee, Finlay, and Mrs Moorhouse; S Avery (Witham), R Tweddle (TCR HUB) and J Whittaker (Bowes).

Also in attendance: Councillor Blissett (Town Mayor), R Peat (BCCL), M Read, J White (Pittuck Mural Group) J Lloyd, R Evans and two other members of TACT (Teesdale Action for Climate Transition), two members of the public and one member of the press.

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk) Mrs Farren (Services Officer).

49. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were offered by Cllr Child.

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 10/May/19 refers), Members were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members were reminded that a declaration could be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

51. PITTUCK MURAL GROUP

Mathew Read reported that a project was underway to restore a mural at St Mary's Church Hall by Barnard Castle artist Douglas Pittuck. To raise awareness of the legacy of his work, an exhibition will be held at the Witham. A private viewing of the exhibition would take place on 03 April 2020 followed by the opening of the exhibition on 04 April which, would run up until 26 April 2020. Volunteer stewards were required to help; interest could be registered through the group's Facebook page. It was reported that fundraising activities were being co-ordinated for the restoration of the mural. Creative students from Barnard Castle School had produced some pieces of creative writing based upon the mural to be bound into a book to sell. Other ventures included a fundraising gig and an opportunity for related merchandise to be sold through Ingnet Antiques in Horsemarket.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

52. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 02 DECEMBER 2019 – MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

53. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE

Jane Whittaker reported that a Pre-Raphaelite-Knights-Re-inventing-the-Medieval-World exhibition would be soon coming to the Bowes. The exhibition would include paintings from prestigious UK collections including the Tate gallery. Reproduction armour would be on display with activities planned for the half-term holiday. The popular Norman Cornish exhibition was due to finish on 23 February. British oil painter Martin Kinnear has been appointed artist in residence for the retrospective. Young students from Butterknowle, Cockfield, Evenwood, Ramshaw and Woodland Primary schools visited the Norman Cornish exhibition exploring the themes of the artist through music dance and poetry. The successful Power and The Virtue: Guido Reni's Death of Lucretia exhibition finished in January and one of this year's Summer exhibitions were to be the Adventures of Clara exploring pertinent environmental issues.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

54. THE WITHAM UPDATE

A verbal update was given at the meeting by Shelagh Avery, Chair of the Trustees. In order to widen their audience base, The Witham had a stronger focus on community activities. There were more daytime activities including singing and dancing, beneficial to both mental and physical health. They had had a very successful Burns Night and Ceilidh and had a tea dance and ballroom dancing planned along with a fundraising event for the Witham by 'Barney Band'. The Witham were still looking to recruit further volunteers.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

55. THE TCR HUB UPDATE

A verbal update was given at the meeting by Rachel Tweddle who confirmed that the environment and technology were topics that had been identified by the young people from the 'Speak Out' project.

During the half-term, free digital activities/workshops were to be hosted by the Hub and The Bowes Museum for eleven to eighteen-year olds year olds. These will be based around technology, web design, coding and everything digital and would incorporate a carers event aimed at those in KS3.

Resolved – That the information be noted

56. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

At the request of the partner organisations, the subject of environment and sustainability was brought forward. The local group TACT, with which the town council had been in touch, exemplified the possibilities of community action to generate community power schemes. It was reported that £40,000 had been secured by the parish of Barningham from the Rural Community Energy Fund towards setting up a renewable energy project. Applications for funding must be for specific projects

TCR were looking to invite local businesses to pledge to address simple issues like recycling, use of power etc with a view to establish a ranking system which, could be visible within the business/organisation.

Cllr Mrs S Moorhouse suggested that perhaps if there should be an award or an event to bring people together. The Mid-Teesdale Project Partnership could host a drop in event which would tie up with the civic champion meeting.

It was acknowledged that there were opportunities to consider the issue in terms of land management at the Demesnes and Bede Kirk, through the Services Committee.

TCR would be raising the issue through Speak Out and would provide feedback from young people.

TACT suggested climate emergency document, e.g., parish/town councils along with Durham County Council, outlining aims and setting up a working party with clear pathway. It was suggested that this topic should also be considered at the council's Services Committee. Cllr Drew had been asked previously to attend TACT meetings but unfortunately the meetings had not taken place.

It was suggested that it would be beneficial to arrange a meeting with all the chairs of the council's various committees together with TACT.

Resolved – That the following recommendations be made to full Council:

- (a) That Council reaffirms its commitment to addressing the climate and environmental emergency;
- (b) That Council establishes a meeting to identify areas of work through a meeting between TACT and committee chairs; and
- (c) That Council examines the principle of the town council acting in support of any community bid to the Rural Community Energy Fund.

57. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2019/20

Roger Peat reported that the 9 white swan motifs had worked well and that Christmas lighting had been provided in 22 different locations. However, it had been identified that there were problems with the commando boxes affecting seven lampposts. In addition, the main Christmas tree timer did not work. Mr Peat stated that these items needed to be addressed as soon as possible so as not to jeopardise the 2020 display. There had also been some problems with the brightness of the festoon lighting. BCCL are working with Christmas Plus to resolve the issue. Mr Peat confirmed that the intention for 2020 was to have lights that could be turned on and off independently but could be switched on together. The next group meeting will take place on 11 February 2020 at the Old Well, The Bank, Barnard Castle.

- Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and
- (b) That the Clerk investigates the costs associated with the commando box and tree timer and report findings to the next Partnership meeting.

58. POPPY APPEAL

The 2018 Appeal closed at the end of September 2019, and, locally, the area raised a total of £17,519.24, almost £200 more than in 2017.

The 2019 Appeal launched on 26 October 2019 and during the two-week period of Remembrance, a total of £13,907.59 was raised; an increase of £1,500 for the same period last year.

The in-store manned collection at Morrisons supermarket raised £7,842.43 with the balance coming from street collections, Wednesday market stall, house to house collections and donations received from various local businesses, organisations and schools.

The 2019 Appeal is not due to close until September 2020 so there would still be opportunities to boost the total. Church and wreath donations were not included in the current total; and it is likely that monies would be raised at the Town Council's 1940's weekend in June, therefore there is every chance that the final total will be a good one.

As previously reported, the Council worked collaboratively on a project with HMYOI Deerbolt to up-cycle old poppy stock. This was funded by the Mayor's charity, the Mid-Teesdale Project Partnership. The up-cycled sparkly poppies proved to be a great success and were very popular with the general public.

The continuing dedication and support from our band volunteers is vital to the success of the Appeal and we are extremely grateful for all their efforts. Morrisons and Barclays Bank also play key roles in the success of the appeal and we are also grateful for the continuing support of the management and staff.

Recommendation – (a) That the information be noted;

(b) That thanks be given to all the Poppy Appeal volunteers: Sam Henderson, Anne Richardson, Will Wearmouth, Rowan Jefferies, Dorothy Wilson, Janet Sweeting, Iris Hillery, Allan Jones, Clare Tamea, Tricia Child, Ian Moorhouse, June Moore, Flora Wright, Nick Perkins, Becca Steen, Ken Wilson, Cyril Humphrey, Nigel Farren, Catrina Knox, Jane Hackworth-Young, Barbara Wilson, Sharon Parsons-Munn, Susan Kitching and Councillors Blissett, Harrison, Miss Blissett, Mrs Moorhouse, Kirkbride, Child, Chatterjee & Mrs Farren

(c) That thanks also be extended to Morrisons, Barclays Bank and HMYOI.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

59. REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

Remembrance Sunday was held on 10 November 2019. The event was well supported by all sectors of the community including the attendance of the Deputy Lieutenant of County Durham, Mr Bernard Robinson OBE and Colonel Nigel Rhodes, Deputy Commander 4th Infantry Brigade Catterick Garrison.

Rev. Canon Alec Harding led the service at the Parish Church. The Police implemented the temporary road closures and Barnard Castle Band provided a marching band, with the Parade led by the Parade Marshall Rowan Jefferies. Parade members included cadets from Barnard Castle School's Combined Cadet Force.

The Further Act of Remembrance ceremony took place at the main war memorial within the grounds of The Bowes Museum and the service was led by Rev. Canon Alec Harding and Rev. Darren Moore from Barnard Castle School. The Laying of Wreaths was announced by Councillor Mrs Sandra Moorhouse. Students and staff from Montalbo Primary School, Green Lane Church of England Primary School & St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School laid wreaths, Charlotte Page from the Scouts read the exhortation with Cllr Ian Kirkbride. Barnard Castle School Choir were also in attendance and Andrew Nicholson played the Last Post and Reveille. Following the service, free refreshments were provided at the Freemasons Masonic Hall.

A letter will be sent to the press thanking all those organisations and individuals for the roles they played.

Recommendation – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That thanks be extended to the Deputy Lieutenant Bernard Robinson OBE, Colonel Nigel Rhodes, Deputy Commander 4th Infantry Brigade, Rev Canon Alec Harding and the Church Wardens of St Mary's Church, Rev Darren Moore, the Combined Cadet Force, Choir, students and staff of Barnard Castle School, Andrew Nicholson and members of Barnard Castle Band, Nigel Farren, Charlotte Page from the Scouts, Parade Marshall Rowan Jefferies, Cllr Mrs Sandra Moorhouse, Cllr Ian Kirkbride, The Masonic Hall, Mrs Farren

Resolved – That the information be noted

60. VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

It has previously been resolved that the 75th anniversaries of both VE Day and VJ Day falling in 2020 would be commemorated by the council during the 1940s weekend, which falls between those dates. Separately, the town council had been approached by Barnard Castle School about plans to mark the date of VE Day over the weekend commencing with the (revised) Bank Holiday on 8 May 2020.

It was reported that Barnard Castle School holidays commence on 8 May 2020. It has therefore been proposed that a Service Community and Reconciliation Day take place on the 7 May. The school is planning to have performances by musicians and a choir, for there to be dancing, beacon lighting and refreshments. The school have been very clear that this should be an event for the town's people. It was suggested that it would be a good opportunity to invite civic guests

Resolved – That the information be noted.

61. 1940'S EVENT – 19-21 JUNE 2020

A meeting of the project group was held on 28 January to proceed with planning for the 2020 weekend. It should be noted that, following discussions with one of the co-founders of Teesdale Aviation Day, that this year's commemoration, which will, itself, be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the event, will be decoupled from the 1940s Weekend. It would now take place on 10 July, to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain

It was confirmed at the meeting that 4 stalls had been booked, that there would be a dance taking place the at The Witham on Saturday 20 June 2020, the cobbled market area in Horsemarket would be utilised on both the Saturday and Sunday and on the Sunday, Barnard Castle Band would play at St Mary's Church.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

